GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:653
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2001
COCONUT INDUSTRY UNDER DISTRESS IN KARNATAKA
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;RUDRAGOUDA PATIL;SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that a severe crisis is being faced bythe coconut growers in certain States, particularly in Karnataka due to coconut mite;

(b) if so, the estimated damage caused to coconut and arecanut crops in Karnataka during 2000-2001 due to mite menace;

(c) if so, the measures taken by the Union Government and the State Governmentsto control this dangerous disease and to compensate the growers in this regard; and

(d) the quantum of Central assistance sought and provided to these States to control this pest?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): Eriophyid mite of coconut infested coconut palms in Southern States including Karnataka during 1998.

(b): As reported by Government of Karnataka, about 80 lakh coconut palms are affected by eriophyid mite of coconut in Karnataka. No severe incidence of arecanut mite has been reported in Karnataka.

(c): The measures taken by the Union Government and the State Governments to control eriophyid mite are given below:

(i) Coconut Development Board sponsored a research project costing Rs.3.00 lakh through Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore for developing bio-agents for control of mite through biological measures. A bio-agent called `MYCOHIT` has been developed;

(ii) Awareness campaigns/seminars/group discussions among farmers were organised by Coconut Development Board in association with Central Plantation Crops Research Institute and State Agricultural Universities;

(iii) Coconut Development Board has conducted trainings for departmentalstaff and farmers and developed Website to access information on mite on the net;

(iv) An amount of Rs.142.45 lakh has been provided under National Agriculture Technology Project (NATP) for research work on coconut mite, which includes 2 centres in Karnataka, viz., University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwar and Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore;

(v) A Steering Committee was constituted to review and coordinate efforts in developing suitable control measures on management of coconut mite. The committee has recommended chemicals, eco friendly pesticides, microbial pesticides and identified predators.

(d): The quantum of central assistance sought and the assistance provided through Coconut Development Board to these States for control of coconut mite is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

State	Assistance sought	Assistance provided
Kerala	100.00	30.04
Karnataka	336.37	8.90
Tamil Nadu	31.10	10.54
Andhra Pradesh	12.24	3.70